



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 7, 2007

No. 74

Senate

The Senate met at 2:15 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, remind us today of truths that matter to keep us from deceiving ourselves. Help us to remember that we rarely reap what we haven't sown. Remind us that progress is seldom made on the wings of inevitability but requires prayerful plans, powerful perseverance, and loving providence. Teach us again that forgiveness still heals, truth still liberates, giving still transforms, and love still conquers.

Give the Members of this body a meaningful day. Provide them with wisdom to discern the excellent and to do what is best. Inspire them to conduct themselves in a way that honors You.

And, Lord, please remember the victims of the Kansas tornado.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 7, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4 o'clock, with the time equally divided and controlled by the respective leaders.

The Senate will resume consideration of S. 1082, the FDA bill, at 4 p.m. today. Upon resuming the bill, the Senate will begin several votes: first, the Cochran second-degree amendment to the Dorgan amendment, then the Dorgan amendment, and then the cloture vote on the substitute amendment.

I understand the managers will be here very soon to seek consent to dispose of amendments they have already worked out. Also, Members have until 3 o'clock today to file any first-degree amendments. In addition to filing cloture on the committee substitute amendment and the bill, I also filed cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act, which is known as WRDA. It is a bipartisan piece of legislation, led by Senators BOXER and INHOFE. I am hopeful it will not be necessary to have that cloture vote and that we will be able to proceed to the bill once action is concluded on the FDA bill.

Members should be ready for a number of votes starting at around 4 o'clock today. The first vote will be 15 minutes, and the remaining votes will be 10-minute votes. Everyone should be alerted to that.

Another matter which I mentioned last week is going to conference with respect to the budget resolution. The House was slated to take that up this evening. I think now it may be tomorrow when they will take it up, so that message may not get to us until Wednesday.

This is a very busy week, so everyone should be aware of the different votes that may be necessary. We hope we can complete work on the FDA bill tonight. That is certainly possible; otherwise, maybe in the early morning.

IRAQ

Mr. REID. Mr. President, nearly a week has passed since the President vetoed a bipartisan proposal that fully funded our troops and also changed course in Iraq so we could responsibly end the war.

Although the President's actions thwarted the will of the American people, very clearly, they—the American people—deserve to know what their leaders in Congress are doing. We are alerting them that we, as congressional leaders, are doing everything we can to work toward an agreement on an emergency supplemental funding bill that will make America more secure, fully fund our troops, and responsibly change course in Iraq.

Our proposal called for a change in the mission and the phased redeployment of U.S. combat troops no later than October 1 of this year.

A bipartisan majority of the House and Senate made it clear they believe a timeline for the reduction of combat operations will compel the Iraqi Government to take responsibility for their own country, will reduce the specter of occupation, and will allow our forces to come home.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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